



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



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"Terrorists are not welcome in Iraq. If they want to test us, they will end up in jail like the man we captured this night."

- Capt. Hazem, Page 3



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Rick Rzepka

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld are greeted by Iraqi President Jalil al-Talibani during an unannounced visit to the country.

Rice and Rumsfeld

The honorable leaders come to Iraq for visit

Story by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
4th Infantry Division, Public Affairs Office
and Spc. Rick Rzepka
This Week in Iraq Associate Designer

BAGHDAD — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld made an impromptu visit to Baghdad on Wednesday to meet with members of the Iraqi government, and with the newly-nominated Prime Minister Nouri Maliki.

"I think that these are responsible and capable people," said Secretary Rice. "The conversation with (Maliki) was a conversation about trying to build a stable government. I don't know anyone more devoted to a national unity government."

Secretary Rumsfeld echoed her sentiments.

"They are serious people and they recognize the difficulties of the task they are facing," said Secretary Rumsfeld. "They intend to get about the task of governing this country in a responsible way. A successful Iraq at peace with its neighbors would represent an enormous success for the region."

Secretary Rumsfeld then went to Forward Operating Base Prosperity and the Iraqi-controlled FOB Honor, meeting with Soldiers.

The tour provided him an opportunity to observe the Soldiers of the 6th Iraqi Army

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GENERAL CASEY'S CORNER

Iraq marks milestone

Iraq recently marked another milestone when the Council of Representatives

By Gen. George W. Casey
Multi-National Force - Iraq
Commanding General

appointed the Presidency Council. These leaders reflect Iraq's diverse political and social fabric and pledged to cooperate in creating a national unity government that represents all Iraqis.

Iraq's elected representatives have begun to implement the unity and justice enshrined in their Constitution. This first Council of Representatives has found unity of purpose and common ground through dialogue and compromise, precisely the process envisioned by their Constitution. This is laying a foundation for national unity, reconciliation and progress toward a peaceful future.

Prime Minister-designate Nouri Maliki expects to present a cabinet of ministers to the Council of Representatives in the coming weeks. All Iraqis look forward to a strong, competent and industrious cabinet that will improve government efficiency, expand essential services and implement reforms that will stimulate economic growth. Based on the prime minister-designate's outspoken support to increasing public safety, controlling unlawful armed groups and expanding the

rule of law, Iraqis can be justifiably hopeful. The preponderance of Iraqis remain steadfast in opposing those who

would divide Iraq and derail liberty. The Council of Representative's dedicated efforts to forge a national unity government are as important in this fight against terrorism as the endeavors of the Iraqi Security Forces who shield the Iraqi people from insurgent threats. Together the Iraqi government and its security forces, supported by coalition partners, will make steady progress to realize the vision of Iraq's constitution - a peaceful, free, and democratic nation that respects and represents the will of all Iraqis.

On behalf of the Coalition, I congratulate the Iraqi people and their leaders on the historic milestone toward forming a unified Constitutional government. We encourage continued cooperation toward effective governance, and stand with Iraq in this campaign to defeat terrorism and bring peace to Iraq.



"The preponderance of Iraqis remain steadfast in opposing those who would divide Iraq and derail liberty."

Photos around the Fertile Crescent



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class William Schofer pulls ordnance from the mud near Baghdad on April 20.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Paulo Borja stitches up the hand of Spc. Lemaster Bradford at the Air Force Theater Hospital on Balad Air Base.



Airmen with the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron erect a wall during the construction of an office building at Balad Air Base.



Pfc. Paul Kropf, from the 320th Field Artillery Regiment, plots firing coordinates for a light howitzer during training at FOB Warrior.

THIS WEEK IN
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Ports and profits in Basra

Terminal repairs in the southern city keeps Iraq's exports flowing

Story and photos by Lisa J. Anderson
Gulf Region Southern District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BASRA — Repairs to the Basra Oil Terminal Hydraulic Bridge System is complete after years of neglect and disrepair.

This refurbishment will make terminal operations more efficient, increasing the terminal's reliability and capacity to export more oil. While construction at the site improves safety, it will also increase commerce and stimulate Iraq's economy.

This job was one of eight pieces of the Basra Oil Terminal project, a major terminal overhaul. They are essential to Iraq's reconstruction because oil exports generate revenues of about \$130 million per day. It is one of Iraq's two operating offshore terminals. The second, Kwahr Abd Allah Oil Terminal, also needs repairs and is limited to loading small tankers.



Repairs to the Basra Oil Terminal include six loading arms, two berths and a landing platform.

Iraqi Soldiers rout terrorists in strike

Story and photo by Cpl. Michael Molinaro
4th Infantry Division

ISKANDARIYAH — Like a snake striking its prey, U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers conducted an operation to find suspected terrorists.

Soldiers from 8th Iraqi Army Division's 4th Brigade conducted Operation Cobra Strike with Soldiers from 4th Infantry

Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Iraqi Soldiers are gradually taking the lead in operations in Haswah and Iskandariyah, bringing stability to the northern Babil province.

"It was good to actually plan an entire mission without the help of others," said Capt. Hazem, a 4th Brigade officer.

Iraqi Army leadership planned the oper-

ation, while Coalition Forces filled an advisory role. Capt. Hazem was proud of his accomplishments and those of his Soldiers too.

"Every time we catch an intended target, the confidence increases in my men," said Capt. Hazem. "I couldn't be any more proud of the way my men have performed. Terrorists are not welcome in Iraq. If they want to test us, they will end up in jail like the man we captured this night."

Coalition troops are happy to help and are also looking forward to a time when they can leave.

"Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job in the Haswah and Iskandariyah area," Capt. Colin Brooks, 8th Infantry Regiment's 2nd Battalion, Company B commander. "We are almost there. (Iraqi Soldiers) can see a brighter future, and they are proud to play a role."

"We are increasingly pushing the Iraqi Army to the foreground while we stay in the background," Capt. Brooks said.

Cobra Strike was a hunt that got the suspected leader and financier of a terrorist cell working in the area. The suspected terrorists were implicated in murders, kidnappings and placing roadside bombs throughout Haswah and Iskandariyah.



Soldiers from 8th Iraqi Army Division's 4th Brigade enter the house of a suspected terrorist.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Adaeus G. Brooks

An Iraqi man plows his farm. Hundreds of farmers like him will have access to tractors, plows and other tilling essentials thanks to a farming co-op.

Co-op boosts Iraq agriculture

Story by Spc. C. Terrell Turner
4th Infantry Division

RASHIDIYAH — Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers worked with residents and farmers from Rashidiyah to create a farming co-op, a major step in strengthening agriculture output in the region.

Local farmers joined to create a business plan that will consolidate their resources to benefit the entire community.

A new facility gives local farmers access to tractors, plows, fertilizer and seeds. The services are provided, “in order to lower costs, increase production and improve the agricultural situation in this area,” said Capt. Wendy Weinell, a civil affairs team leader with Company A, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The co-op project began 18 months ago with the help of a local sheik and the Qada, (local governance). The project will provide agriculture support to about 3,000 acres of farmland in Husseniya, Rashidiyah and Sheikhsad. The region produces a variety of fruit and vegetables, including dates, citrus plants, okra, tomatoes, corn and cucumbers.

“Future plans include expanding the facility to provide support for 6,000 square acres,” said Capt. Weinell.

Iraqi Soldiers and Iraqi Police worked along side Coalition Forces to provide security for the event.

“More than 200 members signed on to be a part of the co-op after an initial election,” said Capt. Weinell. “There’s a board of directors, of

which Sheik Mohan is the current chairman. He’s worked with Coalition Forces since we first got here and was instrumental in making the co-op happen.”

For one local man, the co-op is a hands-on opportunity to help the community.

“I used to be a security guard at a local power plant,” said Mohammed Waleed. “Eight



Lt. Col. Rocky Kniecik, a commander with the 4th Infantry Division, talks with a local sheik at the new farmer's co-op facility.

months ago when the project was approved, I signed up to be the caretaker. Because they knew I was a good guard, they appointed me here.”

Waleed, who lives nearby with his family, also helped in the construction of the facility.

“[Waleed] would point out deficiencies to me that he felt I should know about,” said Capt. Weinell.

Adnan Najeen said he has been a farmer all of his life and sees the new building as a way to bring more opportunity.

The building will enable farmers to grow various plants throughout the year.

“This has been a very successful project and will provide us with fertilizer and seeds,” said Najeen. “All the farmers will benefit as it raises the living standard of all the farmers.”

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Brothers of the Week

Duo is years apart but only minutes away

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
447th Air Expeditionary Group

SATHER AIR BASE — Senior Airman Chad Hargarten heard his brother was at Camp Stryker. He had not seen his brother since Christmas 2004, so he jumped into a truck and went on a search to find him.

Army Spc. Eric Hargarten, who's based in Kuwait, had just arrived in Iraq on temporary duty to a forward operating base. He knew his brother was based somewhere in Baghdad. So he called his mother in Hawaii to ask where the Airman was. When she told him Sather Air Base, he didn't know how close it was. When he heard it was down the road about 10 minutes, he jumped on a shuttle bus.

The brothers literally passed each other on the road. One of Chad's coworkers called him on the radio and told him his brother was in his work center. The Airman turned around and went back to Sather Air Base.

"He's there talking to my supervisor

(when I walked in)," said Chad. "He pretty much ran and gave me a big hug."

Like many siblings, they didn't learn to appreciate each other until they became adults.

"We fought all the time. It was like he was on my turf," said Eric. "We went our separate ways and got close."

They kept in contact via e-mail.

Except for that last Christmas together in 2004, their military careers kept them apart.

"I appreciate my brother a lot more than before," Chad said.

The brothers' followed a long family heritage of serving in the military. Their father



Army Spc. Eric Hargarten and Air Force Senior Airman Chad Hargarten share a laugh during a chance meeting at Sather Air Base.

was an Air Force officer. Their grandfather was a Navy officer. So the two - the youngest of five siblings, and the only boys - felt it was a calling to continue the tradition.

"We love what we do in the military," Eric said.

However, Chad, who's deployed from the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron at Aviano Air Base in Italy, said he feels a lot of concern about his older brother, because Eric is going to be patrolling the Iraq roads as a

crewman in an M-1 Abrams tank. It's a job he trained for, but he's been working in a support role for the last 2 1/2 years.

The two brothers don't know when their next chance meeting will occur, so they planned to spend the evening together talking and enjoying each other's company.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

The 4th Infantry Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman welcomes Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld to FOB Honor during the secretary's surprise visit to Baghdad on Wednesday.

Secretary

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Division's 5th Brigade as they trained on maintenance, infantry tactics and first-aid procedures.

While visiting with Maj. Gen. J. D. Thurman, commanding general of Multi-National Division - Baghdad, Secretary Rumsfeld also watched U.S. forces training Iraqi Soldiers.

"They are increasing in their capabilities every day," said Secretary Rumsfeld. "This is an exciting time to be here with the new permanent government of Iraq. They are making impressive progress. The naysayers that denigrate the ISF are just plain wrong."

Secretary Rumsfeld also took the time to have lunch with 4th Infantry Division Soldiers at the King Cobra Dining Facility at FOB Prosperity.

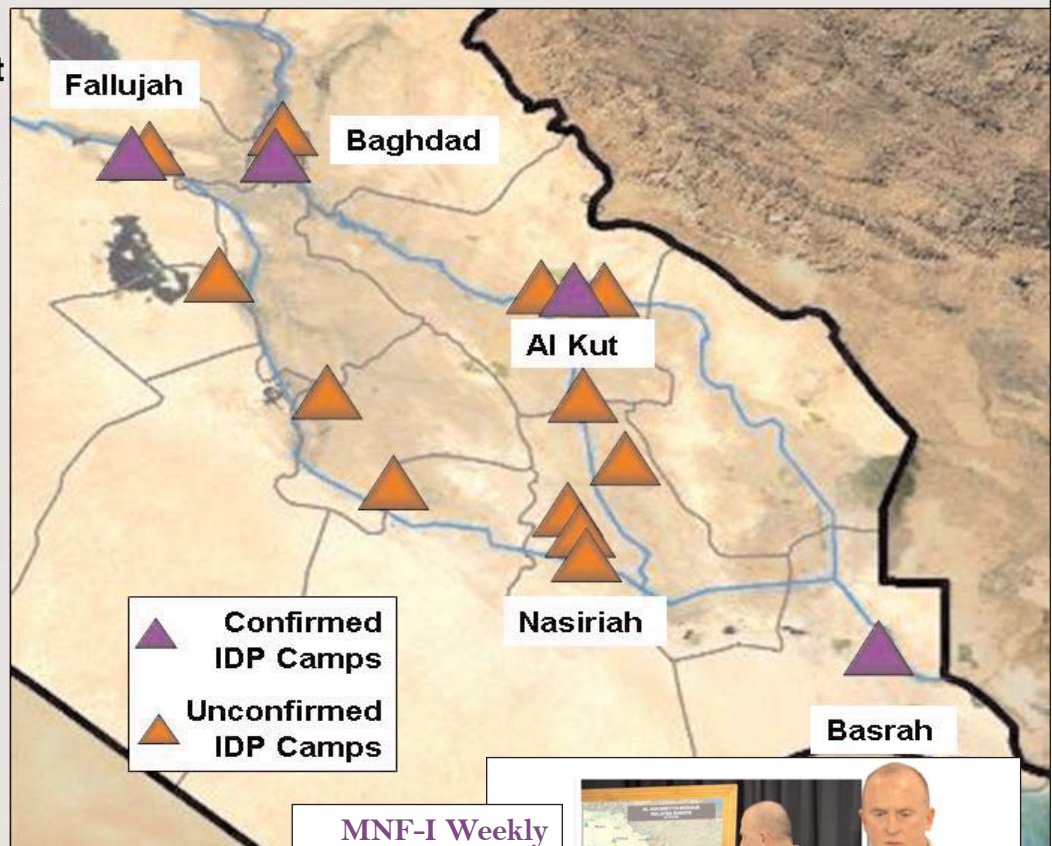
"It was monumental to have the Honorable Mr. Rumsfeld here today to observe our Iraqi partner brigade honing their battle skills and to meet and eat with the fine Soldiers of the 4th BCT," said Col. Michael Beech, the commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Moody Jr., of the 4th BCT, hosted the luncheon for the brigade, allowing each of the battalions to select Soldiers to attend the special occasion.

"It is good for the Soldiers to see someone from Washington come down to show them that they appreciate what we do on a day-to-day basis here in Iraq," said Command Sgt. Maj. Moody.

Internally Displaced Persons

- Most IDP movement is within areas of Baghdad or from Baghdad to southern provinces.
- Numerous motivations for Iraqi displacement; some inconsistent with definition of IDP.
- Four IDP camps confirmed by Coalition Forces as occupied.
- No assistance requested to date by Provincial Government.



MNF-I Weekly
Press Conference



Civil War Indicators

Indicator	Reporting April 16 - 22
Ethno-sectarian identities are the overriding force driving decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President Talabani accepted nomination of Nuri al-Maliki as prime minister candidate. - In Baghdad, some Iraqis view Iraqi Police as partisan.
Unrestrained, self-sustained sectarian strife across multiple provinces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethno-sectarian casualties 152, lowest since Golden Mosque attack. - Violence is concentrated in Baghdad.
Ethno-sectarian mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide-spread influence and actions by militias not seen. - Some intimidation tactics taking place in Baghdad.
Forced Population movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pockets of families have been intimidated to leave some areas, but not in large numbers.

Homeward bound

"We have not been asked for any assistance for displaced civilians. The provincial government has not asked, the local governments have not asked, the national government has not asked. So if there are indeed 36,000-plus families that have been displaced, we're not seeing it. We indeed move to check every report of displaced civilians. And we were told about displaced civilian camps, and of the 16 that we were told about, we can only confirm the location of four - one in Fallujah, one in Baghdad, one in al Kut, and one down in Basra.

"We got the report of 500 families displaced in Basra, we went to confirm, and all we could find was 43 families. So there is indeed indications of displaced persons inside of Iraq. Some of them truly are moving because they're concerned about their own personal security or their family's security, I'm sure of that. Some of them are moving for economic reasons. Some of them are moving to be with their families. But we're not seeing internally displaced persons at the rate which causes us alarm."

Signs of war

"We don't see Iraq on the verge of a civil war. (Here are) the indicators that we're watching to see whether or not we're seeing significant increase of violence that could have the traits of a civil war."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Rick Rzepka

A C-130E cargo plane sits alongside a Mi-17 "Hip" Helicopter at New Al Muthanna Air Force Base in Baghdad. The base is home to the reformed Iraqi Air Force.

Iraqi Air Force Day marks 75 years of flight

Story by Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Iraqi and Coalition forces joined together to celebrate 75 years of Iraqi Air Force history April 22 and 23.

The Air Force was founded April 22, 1931, when five Iraqi pilots landed at al-Washash Airport in Baghdad after receiving pilot training in Britain. Since then, the date has been honored as Iraqi Air Force Day.

The celebration included a display and tour of a C-130E cargo plane and the Mi-17 "Hip" helicopter. Visitors were also given an update on the training of Iraqi maintenance airmen before viewing the trainee dining hall and dorm facilities at the New Al Muthanna Air Force Base in Baghdad.

"We are very excited about the Iraqi Air Force and the progress it's made," said Col. Richard Haddad, the Coalition Air Force Transition Team senior U.S. advisor.

Since its opening on March 7, New Al Muthanna has undergone several construction projects and is now a fully functional

air base, Col. Haddad said. "It will set the standard for all Iraqi Air Force bases."

Work continues between the Iraqi and Coalition forces to rebuild Iraq's Air Force. There are five operational squadrons developing a capability to conduct a variety of airlift, surveillance, utility and inspection missions.

"These airmen are building the basic capabilities to support the C-130," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Rory Horan, maintenance advisor. "Right now, Iraqi Airmen have the capabilities at the journeyman and craftsman level - they are able to accomplish the general maintenance of the aircraft and supervise the training of those under them," he said.

The anniversary celebration continued April 23, with a ceremony at the Ministry of Defense. Senior Iraqi military leaders commented on their military's past 75 years and the next 75 to come.

"We don't want to go back to the 70s," said Sa'dun al Dulaymi, Iraq's Minister of Defense. "We want to do our best to train and develop our Air Force to take over the

responsibility of Iraq. It's important we work together, and we thank the American people for their support." The Iraqi Air Force has personnel and seven different aircraft types spread out at four locations within Iraq: New Al Muthanna, Taji, Basra and Kirkuk.

These teams are working together to help the Iraqi military take on responsibility of their own nation.

"Our staffs, pilots and maintenance personnel work side-by-side putting aircraft into the air over the skies of Iraq, and today they are laying the foundations of a growing and vibrant air force to serve the Iraqi nation," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Stephen Hoog, the Coalition Air Force Transition Team director. The role of today's Iraqi Air Force is to detect and prevent the invasion of hostile elements across national borders and assist other security forces with surveillance and transportation capabilities. They have flown and continue to fly an assortment of missions to include humanitarian assistance, troop transport and infrastructure surveillance.

Soldiers take a hard line to terrorists

Story by Sgt. Kristopher Joseph
Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs Office

Emir exit

Coalition Forces killed the al-Qaida "Emir" of Samarra, Hamadi Abd al-Tahki al-Nissani, on Friday.

They tracked the terrorist and two others to a village 12 miles north of Samarra. The troops entered the house where the three men were hiding. Nissani, who was armed, attempted to flee and was killed by the assault force.

The ground troops also killed the other two armed terrorists inside the house. One of them had grenades strapped around his torso and in his hand. He was killed as he attempted to throw a grenade.

The troops searched the terrorists' car, parked next to the house and found a rocket propelled grenade launcher, multiple rockets, explosives, rifles, ammunition, grenades and a shotgun.

Coalition Forces raided another related location wounding and detaining one armed suspect. The troops found a suicide vest in the front seat of his car.

There were civilians at both houses, but none were injured.

Candid Camera

Heads-up patrolling and attention to detail aided 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team troops in capturing a pair of insurgent cameramen in Mosul Friday.

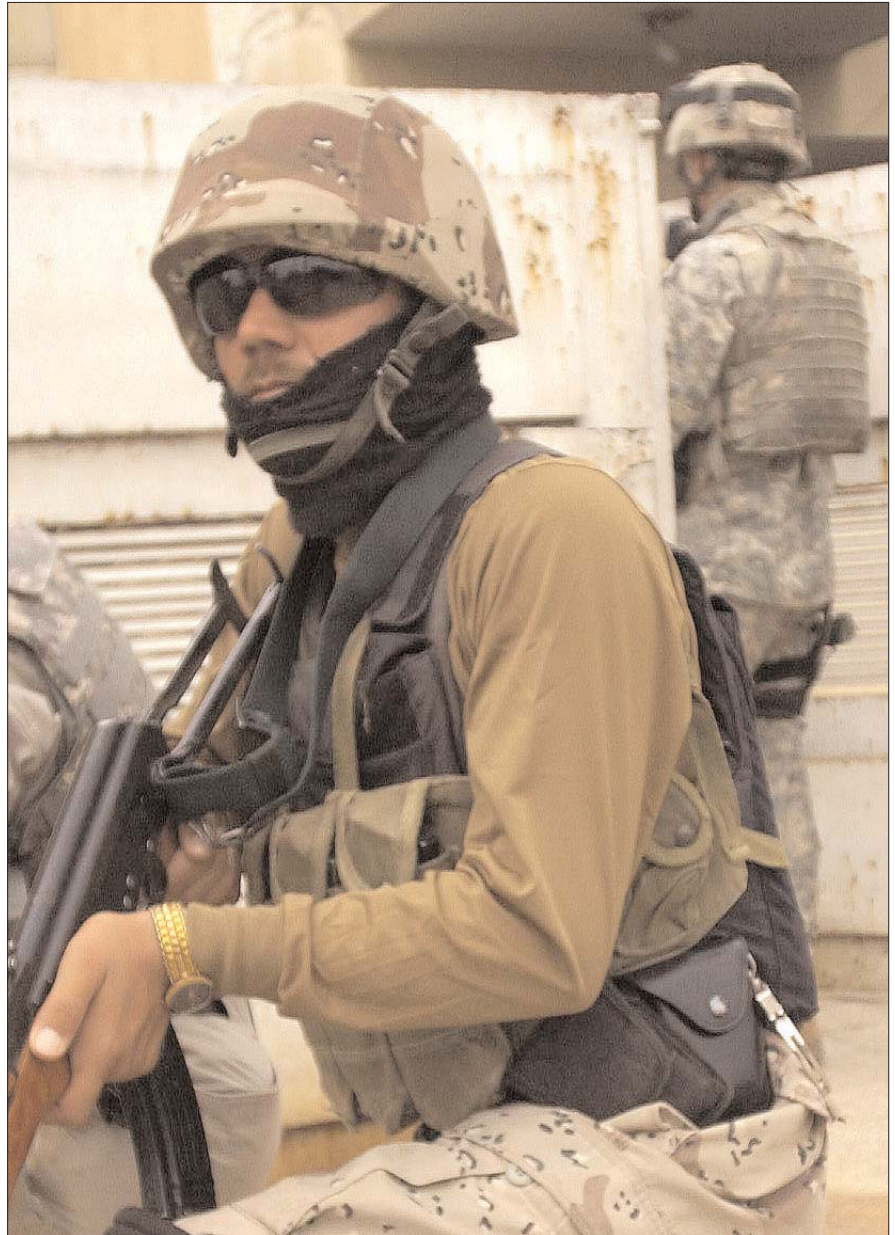
The troops noticed the two men video taping their convoy during a security patrol in the city. As soon as the Soldiers turned toward the camera crew, the two men scrambled in an attempt to flee. The troops surrounded them and took them into custody.

A quick search of their car yielded two improvised explosive devices. The men both claimed they were hired to videotape Coalition Forces during patrols.

Both men tested positive for explosives residue and were taken to a coalition detention facility for processing.

No place to hide

Iraqi and Coalition forces captured eight terrorists Thursday in Baqouba.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. John M. Foster

An Iraqi Police Special Weapons and Tactics team and Soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team patrol Mosul on Thursday.

A combined patrol was investigating a possible mortar and rocket launch site used by terrorists when a group of men started firing at them. Soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Division's 2nd Brigade and 4th Infantry Division, quelled the attackers and put them on the run.

The men tried to escape through a palm grove, but the troops were able to surround and contain the terrorists as artillery and helicopters rained fire into the grove.

Soldiers moved into the grove after the volley of fire and detained eight men identified as the attackers.

Out of the woodwork

Iraqi Security Forces quickly responded to a series of attacks on Thursday in Baqouba in the eastern Diyala Province, leaving a total of 21 terrorists dead and capturing 43.

The attacks began in southern

See OPERATIONS, next page



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Katrina Beeler

Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division patrol the Euphrates River near Musayyib Friday.

Operations

from previous page

Baqouba, in the afternoon, when the Buhriz police station and five police checkpoints were simultaneously attacked with mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire. Iraqi Soldiers and Police killed 17 terrorists and detained 28.

In Dali Abbas, the 5th Iraqi Army Headquarters, 3rd Brigade was reportedly attacked by more than 100 terrorists with mortar rounds, RPGs and small-arms fire. The Soldiers returned fire, killing four terrorists and detaining 15.

Diyala police forces and Soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Division quickly reacted to these attacks and have secured the city of Baqouba and surrounding areas. The governor enact-

ed a province-wide curfew.

Playing Operation

Soldiers from 6th Iraqi Army Division's 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, and the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade, found two large weapons caches during a search in a rural community southeast of Baghdad on Wednesday.

The first cache included five tank mines, two of which were prepared as IEDs, mortars and a suicide vest.

The second cache consisted of artillery rounds, mortars, a hand grenade and blasting caps.

Neutralize means kill

Coalition Forces killed 12 terrorists during a raid Tuesday in Yusifiya at a safe house associated with foreign fighters. Multiple sources led the troops

to the home only five miles from where the U.S. Apache helicopter crashed on April 1.

Upon arrival the troops took direct fire and immediately engaged the threat with the help of helicopter machine gun fire. The troops initially killed five terrorists outside of the safe house, and then called for an air strike to neutralize the persistent direct fire coming from the safe house.

After the precision air strike, ground troops did a tactical search of the destroyed building and found the bodies of eight more terrorists. Everyone who was found in the rubble was wearing a vest with loaded magazines and grenades. The troops also discovered a suicide note on one of the terrorists.

The Buhriz police station and five police checkpoints were simultaneously attacked.



Soldiers with the 84th Engineer Battalion saw through the asphalt around a pot hole in the road near FOB Endurance in northern Iraq.

Soldiers digging their job

Rapid pothole repair team keeps vehicles on Iraq roads

Story and photo by Sgt. Mitch Armbruster
207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FOB ENDURANCE — Construction on streets and highways is a common and often aggravating experience for people in cities and towns all over the United States.

It's also a hassle for servicemembers driving on the roads of Iraq, but the 84th Engineer Battalion, from Fort Richardson, Alaska, is working hard to maintain the supply routes around Forward Operating Base Endurance to alleviate those problems.

The repair team has fixed about 50 potholes and three major road repairs in a month, said 2nd Lt. Kurtis Schaaf.

The Soldiers accomplished their first pothole repair mission in February and they have been working hard ever since.

"These guys set the battalion record for most

holes repaired in a night with 16," 2nd Lt. Schaaf said.

Although 16 holes may not seem like much, the work they do to fill the potholes or washouts is formidable. They cut out asphalt, shovel away debris and stamp the earth before filling the holes with concrete.

"They work hard and are a great group of guys," said Spc. Arjim Auto, a medic with the 84th. "These guys work fast."

While the Soldiers fix holes, often under a moon lit sky, a security team from the 84th keep the Soldiers worry free so they could concentrate on the repairs.

"The guys love the mission and what they are doing," 2nd Lt. Schaaf said. "It was slow moving at first, but now we are starting to get missions stacked on top of each other."

The work around FOB Endurance eliminates holes for possible improvised explosive devices and it also makes the ride smoother for Soldiers and civilians.

Multi-National Force Iraq Official Web Site - Microsoft Internet Explorer

WWW.MNF-IRAQ.COM FREEDOM FACT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides training on industrial equipment enabling Iraqis to operate and maintain equipment and power systems throughout the country.

Search

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Freedom Fact

The International Monetary Fund estimates 2005 GDP grew by 2.6% in 2005, and is expected to grow by 3.0-4.0% in 2006, adjusted for inflation.

Rebuilding Iraq

Projects that are shaping a nation

Shekhan

Residents of Shekhan will have clean, consumable water with the installation of three wells.



Sulaimaniyah

More than 5,000 homes and business in Sulaimaniyah have increased electricity with the installation of a substation.



Taji

The completed school renovation in Taji will provide a better learning environment and a brighter future for local students.

al Anbar

The completion of seven border posts in al Anbar Province will increase the security along the border with Jordan and Syria, and allow for the proper training and logistical support of the border police.

Rutbah

A new hospital in Rutbah will provide general care to about 17,000 residents.



Baghdad

About 200,000 residents of the Abu Ghraib neighborhood of Baghdad now have electricity with the installation of more than a mile of feeder line from a substation.



Iraqi Soldiers from 1st Iraqi Army Division's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, conduct a foot patrol around the Combat Outpost Dunlap in West Jezera.

On patrol with the 1st Iraqi Div.

Soldiers on the move in West Jezera as they train to take the lead

Photos can be found on www.mnf-iraq.com

U.S. Marine Corps photos by Cpl. Samantha L. Jones



Soldiers pause along their patrol route around Combat Outpost Dunlap.



U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Michael A. Kozeliski, an advisor for the 1st Iraqi Army Division's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, talks with patrol leaders.



Passing sandbags and wire, Iraqi Soldiers keep an eye to the horizon during a training patrol in West Jezera.